Falls Church Environmental Services Council Approved Minutes May 17, 2007, 7:30 PM City Hall Planning Conference Room

Present: Ralph Yatsko (chair), Kathy Allan (City Liaison), Joe Gerrity, Bill Schellstede, Nancy Lee, Juanita Bowman. Guest: Jason Hobbie

Called to Order @ 7:45PM Minutes approved for March 2007 and April 2007

Action Items

City Center memo: Draft of memo circulated prior to meeting via e-mail, and, at meeting. Discussion followed regarding the request by Atlantic Realty for special exception for the City Project. The memo includes eight suggestions that the ESC agrees should be included in the City project. Plan: Kathy Allan to e-mail the letter to City Council members prior to Monday joint council & planning commission meeting.

Climate Protection Initiative Task Force. No report

Bike friendly City: Ralph continues to explore /work on this action item. Nothing new to report.

2007 Priority Actions

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT: Single Stream Recycling continues to be a high priority with this council. The solid waste Management Plan was written by committee in July 2004. Although part of the solid waste management plan, carts to support single stream recycling have not been funded in the City Budget.

Kathy reported that she will go to Waste Management's single stream recycling facility on May 22^{nd} in Elkridge, MD. This will help in the planning of our City's program. Kathy met with a provider of bins and carts, to explore funding options. Joe researched several communities to find how receptive others were to moving to single stream. Kathy spoke to the recycling providers about "credits" and "allowances" in hope of keeping the initial costs low.

Plan: Continue to promote this program. Kathy and Joe will continue to seek information and promote this program to be funded by the City.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY: *Green building Policy:* Ralph reported that in Arlington, all new commercial buildings are to be SILVER LEED certified. Ralph pointed out that it would be wise to harmonize the region by having City Council take a similar action. VPIS is also promoting this idea. Plan: Ralph will talk to Helen Reinecke-Wilt (city planning coordinator) to encourage this policy. Kathy will get a copy of the Arlington ordinance.

Change a Light Campaign: no report.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: Kathy reported that our City Corps of Engineers has reevaluated the storm water drainage systems. There are several areas in the city which will receive priority attention depending on the Corps of Engineers recommendations. Intense storm water run off can cause flooding into the streets and possibly cause damage to homes. Water quality can be affected in our local streams/ runs.

Kathy provided more information about rain barrel water collecting. Plastic rain barrels are installed by homeowners at the end point of the house gutter. Roof water is collected for future use and helps alleviate the amount of water entering our local watershed during rain events. Homeowners can then use the water collected in their gardens during dry spells. Falls Church sponsored workshops with Arlington and Fairfax is sponsoring several workshops open to Falls Church residents. Rain barrels cost \$35.00. There will be more workshops in the future. Kathy also talked about water cisterns which hold much more rain water (200 to 2000 gallons of rain water). Kathy will present this information to a council work session in June. Patricia is seeking some grant mony to promote these programs. Plan: Kathy to talk to the council work session.

GREEN ROOF: no report.

DAYLIGHTING: Juanita reported that the opening of piped streams is an environmentally sound idea. It would help improve water quality in our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay by filtering pollutants into natural areas. But, storm water run off is a major concern for residents. If a stream is open, there is the possibility for a flood. Many residents are in flood plains now. This needs to be carefully researched and any recommendation needs to be coordinated with the City engineer dept. There are two piped streams in City Parkland that need repair that possibly could be an initial project. Plan: Juanita will continue an internet search and contact Trisha Samora in the City engineering dept. Kathy will check her files to try to find what this council has recommended in the past.

Kathy reported that due to the City's favorable environmental programs, those residents in a flood plain can request a discount on their flood insurance. Communities are rated on the number and effectiveness of the programs that protect the environment and demonstrate positive water stewardship. Falls Church has the second highest VA rating.

Other Business

GREEN BUILDERS: Nancy will F/U on "green" contractors list. Nancy noted concern about papers and fliers going into trash bins instead of recycle bins in Metro and Bus stations located in our City. She will F/U by contacting the Bus service providers to inquire about placing recycle bins at the bus stops.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE: Kathy is organizing the booth, EarthWatch parade entry, and Property Yard open house.

Announcements

- 1. City Council will meet with advisory council chairpersons in 2 weeks. Ralph will represent this council and present/advocate for priority issues.
- 2. Recycling Extravaganza was very successful. There were 22.7 tons of electronics, 2 tons of textiles, over 100 bikes and medical equipment recycled this year. Kathy and volunteers manned the event. In the future additional city staff and/ or paid help should be considered. Also, people recycling their computers need to be informed prior to the event that the company and/or City cannot be responsible for the personal computer hard drive.
- 3. Kathy reported that due to the many recycling and environmental programs in the City, 51.7% of our entire waste stream is recycled. This is an admirable accomplishment.
- 4. Compost class May 20th at Cavalier Trail Park
- 5. Watershed Friendly Garden Tour and IPRTF native plant sale June 3rd

Next meeting June 21, 2007 Adjournment 9:15 p.m.